

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/166 W

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O R 231245Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3516

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

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CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC  
CGFMFPAC  
CGUSARSUPTHAI  
CNO  
COMNAVINTCOM  
COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMUSMACTHAI  
7/13 AF  
7TH PSYOPS  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF  
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 11590

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOSPS, CB  
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - OCTOBER 23, 1973

GENERAL

1. THE KHMER MOVED THIS WEEK TO TIGHTEN RANKS AND EMPHASIZE SOLIDARITY IN A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT INCLUDING THE CONTINUATION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, THE FORMATION OF AN EXPANDED AND RESHUFFLED CABINET UNDER PRIME MINISTER IN TAM, AND THE RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT. THE FANK MANPOWER PROBLEM IS MOVING IN A HOPEFUL DIRECTION AS WELL WITH THE CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM NOW BEGINNING TO FUNCTION SMOOTHLY AFTER TEMPORARY DISRUPTION CAUSED BY A LON NOL ORDER RAISING THE QUOTA OF DRAFTEES TO AN UNMANAGEABLE LEVEL. POTENTIALLY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES ON THE DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC FRONTS, HOWEVER, REMAIN TO BE FACED. THE UNGA HAS VOTED TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNSEATING THE GKR IN FAVOR OF SIHANOUK'S GRUNK, AND EAST GERMANY HAS FOLLOWED THE USSR IN WITHDRAWING ITS DIPLOMATIC STAFF FROM PHNOM PENH. WITH PHNOM PENH RICE STOCKS AT A 10 DAY SUPPLY AND THE SOURCES OF FUTURE SHIPMENTS AS YET UNCERTAIN THE  
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POSSIBILITY OF A DEFICIT NEX MONTH CONTINUES TO BE A MATTER OF CONCERN. MEANWHILE THE DAILY DISTRIBUTION RATE HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY INCREASED IN ORDER TO AVOID POPULAR UNREST, THUS DRAWING STOCKS DOWN AT A FASTER THAN NORMAL RATE. THE MILITARY SCENE REMAINED RELATIVELY CALM WITH ROUTE 4 OPEN TO CONVOYS AND FANK MOVING TO EXPAND DEFENSIVE PERIMETERS AT KOMPONG CHAM AND SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. A WEEK OF INTENSE POLITICAL BARGAINING, SPURRED ON BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD RECONVENE ON OCTOBER 23, RESULTED IN THE FORMATION OF AN EXPANDED, RESHUFFLED, AND REORGANIZED IN TAM GOVERNMENT ON OCTOBER 21. IN TAM ACQUIRED THE INTERIOR PORTFOLIO TO GO ALONG WITH THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP AND THREE VICE PREMIERS WERE NAMED TO COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF BLOCKS OF RELATED MINISTRIES: FORMER PM HANG THUN HAK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH PARLIAMENT AND COORDINATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NEGOTIATIONS (A NEW MINISTRY), CULTURE, AND SOCIAL ACTION; REPUBLICAN PARTY LEADER OP KIM ANG IS AT PUBLIC WORKS AND WILL COORDINATE AFFAIRS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LABOR, POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND TOURISM MINISTRIES; AND MG THAPPANA NGINN, IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, WILL COORDINATE INFORMATION, PUBLIC HEALTH AND VETERANS AFFAIRS. THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLAN, KHY TAING LIM, IS ALSO GIVEN COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE VITAL AREAS OF FINANCE, AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. IN ALL THE CABINET HAS 29 MEMBERS (3 OF WHOM ARE SECRETARIES OF STATE), 5 MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE 7 NEW FACES, 4 SIRIK MATAK SUPPORTERS, 2 CHENG HENG MEN, AND ONE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN. ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF THE OLD CABINET WERE DROPPED, MG SAR HOR (NOW MILITARY REGION I COMMANDER), AND DEFENSE MINISTER U SAY, WHOSE PERFORMANCE IN THAT POSITION WAS GLARINGLY WEAK EVEN IN A GENERALLY WEAK GOVERNMENT.

3. IN THE POLITICAL PACKAGE WITH THE CABINET WAS AN AGREEMENT TO ALLOW PARLIAMENT TO RESUME ITS NORMAL CONFIDENTIAL

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FUNCTIONS, WHICH IT DID TODAY FOLLOWING AN OPENING ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT LON NOL AND PRESENTATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS PROGRAM BY PRIME MINISTER IN TAM. UNDER THE RECENTLY EXTENDED "STATE OF DANGER" DECREE THE GOVERNMENT WILL RETAIN THE RIGHT TO LEGISLATE BY DECREE IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED AREAS (MEDIA, PUBLIC GATHERINGS, SEARCH AND SEIZURE) AND LON NOL HAS ASKED FOR SPECIAL ACCELERATED PROCEDURES FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL LEGISLATION. OTHERWISE, THE PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE FULL POWERS TO LEGISLATE AND TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCOUNT FOR ITS ACTIONS.

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O R 231245Z OCT 73

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 11590

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

4. A PRECIPITATE DECISION BY PRESIDENT LON NOL TO EXPAND THE PHNOM PENH QUOTA TO AN UNREALISTIC 2,500 MEN PER DAY THREATENED TO DISRUPT THE CONSCRIPTION EFFORT. FORTUNATELY, AFTER A DAY OF CONFUSION, REASON PREVAILED AND THE QUOTA HAS NOW BEEN REDUCED TO 500, THE CURRENT CAPACITY OF THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER, WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN A CONTINUING FLOW OF NEW CONSCRIPTS WITHOUT OVERLOADING THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR PROCESSING THEM. AS OF CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 22 (TWO WEEKS AFTER THE FIRST DRAFTEES WERE CALLED) A TOTAL OF 2716 NEW RECRUITS HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO FANK, 1807 VOLUNTEERS AND 909 CONSCRIPTS. A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES REMAIN, IN PARTICULAR THE PROBLEM OF LOCATING AND APPREHENDING THOSE WHO FAIL TO RESPOND TO CONVOCAION ORDERS, BUT THE PROGRAM IS GATHERING A MOMENTUM WHICH SHOULD CARRY IT FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

5. THE UNGA VOTED 68-24-29 TO INSCRIBE A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR "RESTORATION OF GRUNK'S LAWFUL RIGHTS" ON ITS AGENDA. THE SOVIET UNION'S SHIFT IN ATTITUDE TOWARD GRUNK AND PRC EFFORTS ON GRUNK'S BEHALF HAVE SPARKED  
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GKR FEARS THAT ITS CREDENTIALS WILL ALSO BE CHALLENGED AT THE UPCOMING UNESCO AND FAO MEETINGS, AND THE GKR HAS REQUESTED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO MEET ANY SUCH ATTACKS.

6. THE KHMER UN POSITION WAS FURTHER WEAKENED AS THE

SOVIET UNION AND EAST GERMANY INFORMED THE GKR THAT BECAUSE OF THE "POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION" THEY WILL "TEMPORARILY" WITHDRAW THEIR EMBASSY STAFFS FROM PHNOM PENH, LEAVING ONLY CARETAKERS FOR EMBASSY PROPERTY. THE SOVIETS PLAN TO LEAVE BY SPECIAL AEROFLOT AIRCRAFT ON OCTOBER 24 AND THE EAST GERMANS ON NOVEMBER 7. THE KHMER HAVE DECIDED TO RETAIN THEIR CHARGE AND HIS STAFF IN MOSCOW FOR THE TIME BEING. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOVIET MOVE WILL PROBABLY BECOME CLEARER DURING THE DEBATE AND VOTE ON THE KHMER SEAT IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7. THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN BOLSTERED KHMER REPUBLICAN MORALE OCTOBER 18 WITH A STATEMENT THAT INDONESIA WILL NOT RECOGNIZE GRUNK EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THE UNITED NATIONS REPLACES THE GKR WITH GRUNK.

8. ON OCTOBER 15 THE GKR ANNOUNCED THAT ITS AMBASSADOR TO LONDON DOUC RASY HAS RECEIVED AGREEMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM. HE WILL CONTINUE TO RESIDE IN LONDON.

GRUNK/FUNK

9. IN AN OCTOBER 20 STATEMENT TO AFP, SIHANOUK ANNOUNCED THAT ALL GRUNK PORTFOLIOS EXCEPT FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD SHORTLY BE GIVEN TO IN-COUNTRY LEADERS. HE SAID THE TRANSFER WOULD UNDERCUT PROPAGANDA ASSERTING GRUNK IS "A PEKING-BASED GOVERNMENT IN EXILE". COMMENT: THE SHORT TERM GOAL OF ENHANCING GRUNK'S IMAGE AS A REAL GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO THE UNGA CREDENTIALS BATTLE OBVIOUSLY UNDERLIES THIS DECISION TO SHIFT MINISTERIAL TITLES TO THOSE ACTUALLY RESIDENT IN CAMBODIA. IN THE LONG TERM, HOWEVER, THIS MOVE SHOULD WIDEN THE GAP BETWEEN IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND FURTHER CONFINE SIHANOUK TO INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIONS.

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10. THE GRUNK MISSION IN PARIS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 9 THAT IN SOPHANN, PRESIDENT OF SONATRAC (THE NATIONAL TRACTOR COMPANY) HAD RALLIED TO FUNK AND CONDEMNED US AGGRESSION AND THE PHNOM PENH TRAITORS. (COMMENT: IN SOPHANN HAS BEEN IN FRANCE FLIRTING WITH GRUNK FOR SOME TIME; THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DEFECTION.)

GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL)

11. IN A MEETING WITH SOCIALIST JAPANESE DIET MEMBER HARUO OKADA OCTOBER 18 SIHANOUK REITERATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MEET

SENATOR MANSFIELD AND HIS REFUSAL TO MEET SECRETARY KISSINGER.  
THE PRINCE URGED WITHDRAWAL OF JAPAN'S PHNOM PENH EMBASSY STAFF TO  
TOKYO IN ORDER TO PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE  
TWO COUNTRIES AFTER LIBERATION.

12. SIHANOUK SAID AN EAST GERMAN DECISION TO RECOGNIZE  
GRUNK, WITHDRAW RECOGNITION FROM THE GKR AND TEMPORARILY  
CLOSE ITS EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH WAS CONVEYED TO HIM DURING  
AN OCTOBER 20 MEETING WITH THE EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO  
PEKING. (SEE POLITICAL EXTERNAL)

13. CLANDESTINE RADIO REPORTED THAT SARIN CHHAK MET WITH  
ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT PERON OCTOBER 13  
IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF VRUNK'S DELEGATION TO THE PERONS'  
INAUGURATION CEREMONY. CHHAK REPORTED  
ARGENTINE EXECUTIVE ASSURANCES OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT.

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ACTION EA-14

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PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 AID-20 DRC-01

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O R 231245Z OCT 73  
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3518  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
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AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL UDORN  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USMISSION USUN  
AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
CINCPAC  
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CINCUSARPAC  
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COMUSSAG  
III MAF  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 11590

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

ECONOMIC

14. PROCURING RICE TO FORESTALL PROJECTED NOVEMBER SHORTFALLS  
TOOK TOP ECONOMIC PRIORITY. PHNOM PENH'S RICE STOCKS STOOD AT ONLY  
10 DAYS ON OCOBER 21 AND POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED TEMPORARY INCREASES  
IN DAILY DISTRIBUTION CONCURRENT WITH THE REOPENING  
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL FURTHER DEplete SUPPLIES.  
THE FIRST 1,800 M/T OF VIETNAMESE-LOANED RICE ARRIVED ON  
OCTOBER 20 AND ANOTHER 800 M/T IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ON OCTOBER 23.  
THE VESSEL TACK TAI IS PRESENTLY IN KOMPONG SOM UNLOADING 3,400  
M/T OF THAI RICE.

15. AFTER CONTINUED AND CONSTANT US PRESSURE THE EXCHANGE  
RATE WAS DEPRECIATED FROM 250 TO 275 RIELS PER DOLLAR ON



OCTOBER 18 AND AGAIN ON OCTOBER 22 TO 302 RIELS; THE BLACK MARKET RATE IS 430 TO ONE DOLLAR. COMMENT: THE RIEL HAS LONG BEEN OVER-VALUED AND LAST WEEK'S MOVEMENTS REPRESENT A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. EXTREMELY LOW NATIONAL BANK RESERVES AND LIMITED FOREIGN EXCHANGE AVAILABLE TO THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND WERE PRIMARY CAUSES OF THE DEVALUATION.

16. RECENTLY REVISED DATA INDICATE A 166 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE GKR WORKING CLASS INDEX AS OF SEPTEMBER OVER DECEMBER 1972.  
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AS ANOTHER MEASURE OF INFLATION THE BLACK MARKET PRICE FOR RICE IS PRESENTLY 14,000 RIELS WHILE THE OFFICIAL PRICE REMAINS AT 5,500 RIELS PER 100 KGS.

17. ON OCTOBER 22 THE CHARGE SIGNED A NOTE TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCING THE US GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO DEPOSIT AN ADDITIONAL \$2.75 MILLION TO THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND. THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND THIS YEAR NOW TOTALS \$17.5 MILLION.

MILITARY

18. THE KHMER INSURGENTS STILL HOLD A 13 KM STRETCH OF RTE 5, CLOSED SINCE SEPT 6. ELEMENTS OF THE SEVENTH DIVISION ARE EXPANDING AND CONSOLIDATING SALA LEK PRAM'S PERIMETER DEFENSES BEFORE LAUNCHING CLEARING OPERATIONS. THE NORTHERN END OF THE CUT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE ENEMY PRESSURE. RTE 4 IS OPEN AND TRUCK CONVOYS OPERATE ALMOST DAILY BETWEEN KOMPONG SOM (ON THE GULF OF THAILAND) AND PHNOM PENH.

19. AT KOMPONG CHAM FANK CONTINUES TO EXPAND AND CONSOLIDATE POSITIONS AROUND THE CITY AND THE AIRFIELD AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY OPPOSITION. THE MILITARY COMMANDER AT KOMPONG CHAM HAS REEMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENTS TO MAINTAIN PRESENT SECURITY AND TO RELEASE INTERVENTION TROOPS FOR FURTHER OFFENSIVE ACTION.

20. IN PHNOM PENH A GRENADE EXPLOSION IN A DOWNTOWN MOVIE THEATER ON OCTOBER 16 KILLED TWO CIVILIANS AND WOUNDED 15. NO EVIDENCE OF TERRORIST INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

21. DURING THE WEEK THERE WAS A NUMBER OF INSURGENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE ISOLATED FANK GARRISONS AT TRAM KHNAH AND SRANG SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, BUT THE PRESSURE HAS SLACKENED A BIT IN THE LAST DAY OR SO.

22. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO RE-ESTABLISH PHNOM PENH'S SOUTHERN DEFENSIVE LINE ALONG RTE 2 CONTINUE TO MAKE SLOW

PROGRESS DESPITE COMMITMENT OF ELEMENTS OF TWO FANK  
DIVISIONS. EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO NEUTRALIZE AN ESTIMATED  
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BATTALION-SIZE ENEMY FORCEWHICH PENETRATED FANK  
DEFENSES AND IS RAIDING NORTH OF THE PREK THNAOT RIVER  
ONLY A FEW KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL'S OUTSKIRTS.  
INSURGENT FORCES SOUTH OF THE PREK THNAOT ARE REINFORCING AND  
REFITTING FOR A PROBABLE DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN.

23. RICE AND POL SPECIAL MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS FROM  
SOUTH VIET NAM ARRIVED AT PHNOM PENH ON 21-22 OCT WITHOUT  
INCIDENT. A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED  
EARLIER ON OCT 17 ALSO WITHOUT ANY ENEMY INTERFERENCE.  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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